(c) what action Government have taken to stop unprovoked rocket firing by Pakistani troops on Indian side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise in view of answer to part (a) above.

(c) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and takes appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Revival of National Security Council

5899. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the revival of National Security Council to assess India's long term defence requirements;

(b) whether revival of the Council is being opposed by the bureaucrats; and

(c) what is the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The question of restructuring the National Security Council is unler consideration of the Government.

Suggestions on restucturing of Indian Army

5900. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several defence experts have suggested restructuring of the Indian Army which is considered top-heavy and equipped with obsolete weaponry; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government to the suggestions made by these experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Three major reviews to optimise the organisational structure of the Army and make it more cost effective have been carried out by the following committees:—

(i) Expert Committee under a Corps Commander (1989-90)

(ii) Special Committee on Combat Echelons headed by the present COAS when he was commanding the Southern Army Command (July 1991).

(iii) Special Committee on Logistic Echelons by an Army Commander (October 1991).

(b) The recommendations of these committees are at various stages of implementation.

Terminal benefits to disable pensioners

5901. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases where normal and disabled pensioners, both belonging to combatant and non-combatant employees of the defence and other civil Ministries have been running wild goose chase to get their terminal disabled benefits for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such cases that have come to light in the last 12 months; and

(c) the steps taken to check such delay in settling pension claims and how is it proposed to be ensured that such cases do not take place henceforth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) For different categories of Defence and Civil employees different authorities have been authorised for sanctioning normal retirement pension as well as disability pension. The authorities are required to settle retirement as well as disability pension claims within specified time limits prescribed for the purpose. Heads of Departments/offices have been made accountable to ensure strict adherence of the prescribed time limits. As the dissatisfied pensioners made representations to number of authorities simultaneously and there is no centralised system for monitoring settlement of pension claims, it is not possible to indicate the number of cases where pension claims could not be settled in time. The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare, however, during the year 1993, received 9,893 complaints relating to various grievences of pensioners. Institutional arrangements have been made for the redressal of pensioners grievances Different Ministries/Departments also hold Pension Adalats for redressal of Pensions' grievances from time to time. The work relating to sanction of pension to Defence pensioners has been fully computerised.

Steps to counter supply of F-16 to Pakistan

5902. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps bieng considered by Government to counter the new changes in the security environment in the Subcontient following the decision of the USA to supply F 16 combat aircrafts to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The Government is closely monitoring the matter concerning supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan and appropriate steps are being taken to counter the threat.

Crashes involving IAF aircraft

5903. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report under the caption "Crashes raise doubts on IAF training standards" published in the 'Indian Express' dated 6th March, 1994;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) what are the details of crashes and IAF aircraft involving during the past three years;

(d) how doe our air force compare in this matter with other countries of the World;

(e) whether some corrective steps are being contemplated in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The training standards of the Indian Air Force (IAF) are comparable to any modern Air Force of the world. The training syllabi, skills of flying supervisors and maintenance are revieived as an on-going process.

Year	No. of IAF air crashes	Aircraft involved in air crashes
1991-92	32	32
1992-93	22	23
1993-94	22	22